This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1   1. (currently amended) An image recording and reproducing
2 apparatus for recording and reproduc~~tion~~ing a multiple picture
3 signal obtained by multiplexing picture signals from a plurality
4 of cameras via a frame switcher, said image recording and
5 reproducing apparatus having a skip reproduction feature for
6 alternating skipping of n frames and continuous reproduction of m
7 frames [[(]] <u>wherein</u> n ~~being~~ <u>is</u> a positive integer, and m ~~being~~
8 <u>is</u> a positive integer related to a frame switching pattern[[)]].

1   2. (currently amended) The image recording and reproducing
2 apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said number of frame<u>s</u> to
3 be skipped is changed during skip reproduction.

1   3. (original) The image recording and reproducing apparatus
2 according to claim 2, wherein said number of frames are changed
3 to (n-d) (2≤d<n, d is a positive integer) in case said number of
4 frames is decreased.

1   4. (original) The image recording and reproducing apparatus
2 according to claim 1, wherein at least m frames are continuously
3 reproduced at the end of a reconstructed image.

1   5. (original) The image recording and reproducing apparatus
2 according to claim 1, wherein at least m frames are continuously
3 reproduced at the beginning of a reproduction image.

1   6. (currently amended) The image recording and reproducing
2 apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said skip reproduction
3 feature is implemented by a process~~ing~~ including a skip
4 processing step for ~~only~~ recognizing said frames and a
5 reproduction processing step for performing reproduction and
6 output of said frames.

1   7. (currently amended) The image recording and reproducing
2 apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said skip—reproduction
3 feature is implemented by a ~~processing including~~ skipping of n
4 frames and ~~the~~ a subsequent reproduction of m frames.

1   8. (currently amended) The image recording and reproducing
2 apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said skip—reproduction
3 feature is implemented by a ~~processing including~~ forward skipping
4 of a series of (n+m) frames, a reverse[[d]] skipping of m frames,
5 and a reproduction of m frames.

1   9. (currently amended) The image recording and reproducing
2 apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said subsequent
3 reproduction of a reconstructed image is performed on m frames up
4 to ~~the~~ a final frame of the reconstructed image when the
5 difference between ~~the~~ a frame just before start of said skipping
6 and the final frame of [[a]] the reconstructed image is equal to
7 or greater than m frames and smaller than or equal to (n+m)
8 frames.

1   10. (currently amended) The image recording and reproducing
2 apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said reproduction is
3 performed up to ~~the~~ a final frame of a reconstructed image when
4 the difference between ~~the~~ a frame of the reconstructed image
5 just before start of said skipping and the final frame of [[a]]
6 the reconstructed image is smaller than m frames.

1   11. (currently amended) The image recording and reproducing
2 apparatus according to claim 8, wherein reverse[[d]] skipping of
3 a maximum of m frames is performed within the number of skipped
4 frames in the immediately preceding processing, when ~~the~~ a final
5 frame of an image is reached during said skipping.

1   12. (original) The image recording and reproducing apparatus
2 according to claim 7, wherein adjustment is made to set the
3 remaining number of frames to a multiple of (n+m) at start of
4 said skip reproduction feature and when the number of frames n to
5 be skipped is changed during skip reproduction.

1   13. (currently amended) The image ~~Image~~ recording and
2 reproducing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein adjustment is
3 made to set ~~the~~ a remaining number of frames to a multiple of
4 (n+m) at start of said skip reproduction feature and when the
5 number of frames n to be skipped is changed during skip
6 reproduction.

1   14. (original) The image recording and reproducing apparatus
2 according to claim 1, wherein reproduction is suspended after
3 continuous reproduction of said predetermined m frames when
4 suspension of reproduction is instructed during execution of said
5 skip reproduction feature.

1   15. (currently amended) An image reproducing apparatus for
2 reproducing a multiple picture signal obtained by multiplexing
3 picture signals from a plurality of cameras via a frame switcher,
4 said image reproducing apparatus having a skip reproduction
5 feature for alternating skipping of n frames and continuous
6 reproduction of m frames, wherein [[(]]n ~~being~~ is a positive
7 integer, and m ~~being~~ is a positive integer related to a frame
8 switching pattern[[)]].

1   16. (currently amended) An image reproducing method for skip

2 reproducing a multiple picture signal obtained by multiplexing

3 picture signals from a plurality of cameras via a frame switcher,

4 said image reproducing method comprising the steps of:

5   skipping n frames of said multiple picture signal;

6   continuous reproducing m frames of said multiple picture

7   signal <u>wherein n is a positive integer, and m is a</u>

8   <u>positive integer</u>; and

9   repeating said skipping and continuous reproducing.

1   17. (currently amended) An image reproducing method for skip

2 reproducing a multiple picture signal obtained by multiplexing

3 picture signals from a plurality of cameras via a frame switcher,

4 said image reproducing method comprising the steps of:

5   <u>forward </u>skipping n+m frames of said multiple picture

6   signal<u>,</u>[[;]] <u>then</u> reverse skipping m frames of said

7   multiple picture signal<u>,</u>[[;]] <u>and then </u>continuous

8   reproducing m frames of said multiple picture signal;

9   and

10   repeating said skipping, reverse skipping and continuous

11   reproducing, <u>wherein</u>

12   <u>n is a positive integer, and m is a positive integer</u>.